

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/832,901

Applicant(s)

MALONE ET AL.

Examiner

Michael B. Holmes

Art Unit

2129

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/19/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 & 14-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 – www.USPTO.GOV

Examiner's Detailed Office Action

1. Claim 13 has been cancelled.
2. Claims 1-12 & 14-17 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

1. (Previously Presented) A messaging system comprising a messaging engine for operating under user instructions to generate and transmit messages addressed to recipient contacts; characterized in that the system comprises a server comprising:
a client interface comprising means for allowing access by a plurality of users of registered clients;
a client manager comprising means for maintaining a database of registered clients;
a content manager comprising means for receiving content items uploaded from users and for storing said content in a content database;
means in the content manager for selecting content items for a message;
means in the messaging engine for generating and sending a message with links to selected content items in the content database;

a response management function comprising means for monitoring a response from a recipient contact using said links, wherein the response management function is configured to automatically capture and record each action the recipient contact takes in the message; a build function comprising means for building content for the responding recipient contact according to the links used by said contact to respond; and means in the response management function for sending the built content to the responding recipient contact, wherein the messaging engine comprises means for: receiving a message generated by a user locally using an external messaging application; and parsing said message and generating a message having a wrapper with links to content of the content database according to the parsing.

2. (Original) A messaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the content manager comprises means for storing profile attributes for content items, and for selecting content items according to said attributes.
4. (Original) A messaging system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the server further comprises a contacts manager comprising means for managing a contacts database of contacts uploaded by users, in which contacts are associated with the users and with profile attributes.
5. (Original) A messaging system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the content manager comprises means for selecting content items by matching profile attributes of a contact with profile attributes of the content items.

7. (Original) A messaging system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the content manager comprises means for managing a database of templates, in which each template is a group of identifiers of collateral parts and message text for re-use by a user.
8. (Original) A messaging system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the content manager comprises means for managing a database of wrappers, in which each wrapper comprises links to selected content items.
9. (Original) A messaging system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the content manager comprises means for grouping content items at the levels of a user organization, a user group written on organization, and individual users.
10. (Original) A messaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the messaging engine comprises means for generating each link in a manner whereby it is unique to the message, and the response management function comprises means for monitoring said links to identify the responding recipient contacts.
12. (Original) A messaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the messaging engine comprises means for allowing a user to directly enter content to a message without previously uploading it to the content manager.
14. (Previously Presented) A messaging system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the messaging engine comprises means for parsing a header for content in the received message, and for using said header to identify relevant content in the content database.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:
4. Applicant's arguments filed (02/19/2008) are persuasive i.e., claims 1-12 & 14-17 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims. Moreover, when taken in context the claim(s) as a whole, were not uncovered in the prior art, thus, the dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon an allowable independent claims.
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments regarding Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence Information

6. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael B. Holmes, who may be reached Monday through Thursday, between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EST. or via telephone at (571) 272-3686 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3686 or email michael.holmesb@uspto.gov.

If you need to send an Official facsimile transmission, please send it to (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful the Examiner's Supervisor, David Vincent, may be reached at (571) 272-3080.

Hand-delivered responses should be delivered to the Receptionist @ (Customer Service Window Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22313), located on the first floor

of the south side of the Randolph Building.

Finally, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Moreover, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) toll-free @ 1-866-217-9197.

Michael B. Holmes

Primary Examiner
Artificial Intelligence
Art Unit 2129

United States Department of Commerce
Patent & Trademark Office

Tuesday, May 06, 2008
MBH

*/Michael B. Holmes/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2129*